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FACTS AND FIGURES SHOW UP CORNWELL

Complete Refutation of Same
Old Story Told Every Cam-
paign by Democrats.

(SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM)
CHARLESTON, Sept. 30.—John J. Cornwell, in his frantic attempts to get 12,000 Republican votes, has blundered into the same old story that the people of West Virginia are paying three times as much in salaries for their state officers as they did when Democrats controlled the state. But he is careful to say nothing about what went into the pockets of certain Democrats in the way of fees in these old days, which, had he at any time attempted to explain away, would have only invited disaster. Unfortunately for Cornwell, the state of West Virginia publishes now under Republican administration, a complete audit of its financial affairs every year.

The comparison between the distribution of taxation for fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, and that in 1897, the last year the Democrats had control of the financial affairs of the state, is possibly the strongest recommendation for every nominee on the Republican ticket this year, from governor down, because the figures show that corporations escaped taxation almost entirely under Democratic rule, while the plain people bore the whole burden of the state's government, when the small

property holders paid not only their part of the state taxes, but also paid most of the taxes of those whom, Cornwell says, are now paying many times the sums they did under Democratic regime.

The total amount paid for salaries of state officers in 1916, is \$25,450, and it is true that in 1897 this amount was only marked up as \$7,000, or about one-third as much. But the kernel in the nut which Cornwell prefers not to pick out of the shell is this: The Democrats had a fee system which was enriching them, while these fees did not show up in the reports, because they went into the pockets of the happy individuals the Democrats had elected. For example, the fees of the auditor's office this year amount to \$54,615.95; in 1897 the fees amounted to nothing. The fees in the secretary of state's office in 1916 amounted to \$16,259.55 and in 1897 nothing. In 1916 the statutory attorney fees are \$20,414.84, and in 1897 they were nothing. Under Democratic misrule these fees were collected as they are now, but instead of showing up as an asset to swell the state's revenue, they quietly slipped into the pockets of the auditor and the secretary of state. Twelve years ago the constitutional amendment did raise the salaries of the state officials, but at the same time, that law made it obligatory that the fees should go into the state treasury, as they do now.

Now what did this do? Note the figures. These fees amounted this year to \$91,290.32, enough to pay the \$25,450 for the salaries of all the state officers, the salaries of the clerks of the governor's office, \$8,238.58; clerks in the state auditor's office, \$24,155.39; the clerks in the treasurer's office, \$5,500; and the assistants and clerks in the attorney general's office, \$12,677.50, and leave a balance in the state treasury amounting to \$6,708.16. Which is the better system, and which is the more just to the citizens of the state—the old Democratic plan of showing less expended for salaries for state officials, while the fees, many times in excess, were pocketed by the office holders, or the system under Republican control, whereby more is paid for the salaries, but sufficient fees turned over to the state treasury and thus back to the people, to pay for all the salaries, clerks, etc., and leave a balance to the good of the state? Does John J. Cornwell believe the people of West Virginia do not know what this difference means? The figures show the difference even if he will not tell it. Since the fee system of the Democrats was abolished Republicans have paid in fees into the state treasury, the vast sum of \$781,076.82, or about \$65,000 a year, which if the people of West Virginia returned Democrats to power and they went back to their "good old Democratic system" once again in 1897 would be putting down into their pockets, in addition to their salaries, Couldn't Cornwell very happily promise to reduce the salaries of the state officials, with a system like the old Democratic system once again in vogue at Charleston? The "lower cost of state government" the Democratic promise would be a mighty fat plum for the office holders at Charleston, but a mighty big bunch of sour grapes for the people of West Virginia.

Little Man Paid Taxes.
In the matter of the distribution of taxation the Democrats when in control of the state, were even more unfair for they let the man with a little of the world's goods pay practically all the taxes, while the great corporations, chartered as servants of the people, and making money out of the state's resources and the homes of the people themselves, paid very little. There were a great many railroads, coal mines, pipe lines, etc., in West Virginia when McCorkle was governor. But in 1897 his Democratic administration collected from the public service corporations only the insignificant sum of \$53,955, while the Republican administration of 1916 collected from the public service corporations nearly half a million dollars, or \$436,850. And at the same time it must be remembered that the Democrats collected their little burden from the corporations on a tax levy of thirty-five cents while the Republicans collected the big sum on a levy of fourteen cents, now reduced to nine cents. And still further, what the average citizen is interested in, he was paying a thirty-five cent levy on his little property the same as the corporation was paying to bring in only a total of \$53,955 for the whole state's income from these corporations, including railroads, pipe lines, telegraph and telephone lines, etc.

In addition to the fees enumerated as turned in by Republican office holders, who got their salaries and nothing more, the Republican system has

brought revenue to the state in 1916 as follows: Automobile licenses, \$162,829, as compared with nothing under the Democrats; license tax on the charters of corporations, \$827,455, as compared to \$105,409 in 1897, under Democratic control; excise taxes in 1916, \$234,918, as compared with nothing under the Democrats; tax on collateral inheritances, \$156,413, as compared with nothing under the Democrats, and so on down the list. For 1916 the total revenues of the state were \$3,589,040, as compared with \$944,360 in 1897, but of the expenditures of the fiscal year 1916, \$3,113,077 the sum of \$1,964,793 was expended on educational, charitable and penal institutions of the state, while the expenditures to run the state departments, pay all salaries, including the salaries of the judges, mileage, etc., was only \$337,669—and this the total cost of running a state which is producing over \$220,000,000 in wealth a year. What great corporation, producing two hundreds of millions in wealth a year, could be or has ever been so economically administered?

Making Assessments.
The assessments are not made in Charleston, it must be noticed, but in the counties, and they are made by Democrats and Republicans alike, the assessors, except that the board of control does assess the public service corporations, since they are intracounty, and turns back these monies to the counties proportionate to the holdings of the corporations within the county boundaries. And still further, under a cloud is the Democratic regime placed when the proportions of these returns are compared for 1916 and 1897. The Republicans in 1916 of the \$3,589,040 collected in revenues, returned \$2,862,532, or about four-fifths, while the Democrats returned of the \$944,360 they collected in 1897, only \$333,581, or not one third. This money returned to the counties the counties used, not the state, and it went to Democratic counties the same as Republican counties, and Democratic counties used it under their own county control just as Republican counties have used it under Republican control.

How this has been brought home to the people is shown in the fact that while the Democratic administration of 1896 returned to Cabell county only \$1,007, in 1916 the Republican administration returned to Cabell county \$800,630; Fayette received \$28,878 in 1896 and \$140,130 in 1916; Greenbrier \$6,272 in 1896 and \$21,565 in 1916; Harrison county \$5,051 in 1896 and \$185,125 in 1916; Kanawha county \$23,793 in 1897 and \$238,634 in 1916; Lewis \$2,583 in 1896 and \$87,783 in 1916; Marion county, now headquarters for West Virginia Democracy,

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\$9,131 in 1896 and now receives \$159,542; Randolph, another Democratic stronghold, \$7,802 in 1896 and \$40,142 in 1916; Boone, another Democratic county, nothing in 1896 and \$12,875 in 1916; Logan, another Democratic county nothing in 1896 and \$19,727 in 1916; Hardy, nothing in 1896 and \$2,562 in 1916; Pocahontas, nothing in 1896 and \$26,044 in 1916; Calhoun, nothing in 1896 and \$4,499 in 1916; Wayne, \$16,976 in 1896 and \$125,383 in 1916; and last, but not least, Hampshire, the home county of Cornwell, received in 1896 the sum of \$2,596, while this year, while Cornwell is talking about the Republicans squandering the people's money, Hampshire county gets back the sum of \$17,321, or almost nine times what the Demo-

crats gave back, and this \$17,321 Hampshire county has to spend, not the Republican state government.

How Levies are Laid.
The fourteen cent levy of 1916 raised in the state the sum of \$1,583,358.05, and of this sum \$414,422.63 was paid back into the general school fund, leaving \$1,168,935.42 as the direct tax of the state government on the people, or \$1.10 on the \$1,000 valuation of property, making the state tax on a man's property assessed at \$4,000 the sum of \$4.40. The state government has nothing to do with levies in the several counties. The sum and substance of the whole argument is that if Cornwell proposes to put the state revenues back to what they were in 1896, \$944,000 he can't spend \$1,964,793

on educational, charitable and penal institutions as is expended this year, and he can't reduce the revenues to the sum of \$944,000 unless he goes back to the old Democratic days and cuts off the taxation now assessed against the corporations—and if that is Cornwell's intent, he will never be bold enough to make such a rash promise in this campaign.

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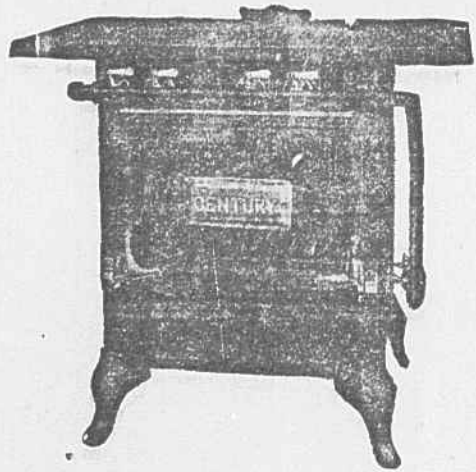
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